A TRUE DISCOVERIE OF THE GROVND OF THE IMPRISONMENT OF

Francis Ellington, Thomas Cocket, and *Edward Ferman*, whose outward dwellings is in *Northamptonshire*, who are cast into the Common Goale in *Northampton*, by the men that are now in Commission to do Justice, who never read us any Law, or any evidence came against us, shewing our transgression as the following lines make manifest. *He that hath an eye to see let him see, and he that hath an ear to hear let him hear.*

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And Judgment is turned away backward, and Justice standeth afar off, for Truth is fallen in the streets, and equity cannot enter; yea Truth faileth, and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey. Isaiah 59. 14, 15. *verses.*

LONDON,
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A true Discovery of the ground of the Imprisonment of Francis Ellington, Thomas Cocket, *and* Edward Ferman, &c.

I *Francis Ellington*, living in *Wellingborough* in the County of *Northampton*, about the 9. day of *October* 1654. being in my Calling and employment at a Faire at *Harborough* in *Leicestershire*, and hearing that there was one *William Dewsbury* a *Yorkeshire* man at a friends house there; and he was that day to declare the word of the Lord to the Consciences of the people; and being free in my spirit to go to hear him, I went to the friends house, and heard him declare the word of life to my Conscience, which raised the witness of God in me, that did own what he spake to be the Word of the Lord; which my understanding did enlighten to see the way to eternal life, which I had long sought in my imagination of the Saints condition. Then was I moved of the Lord to desire his servant, who to me declared His word, when he was free in his spirit, to come to my house, which he did upon the 27. day of the 10. Month called *December*, and a friend with him whose name is *Joseph Storre*, who stayed at my house that day and night; and on the morrow *Richard Denit* Constable of the Town, came to my house with a warrant from *Thomas Pentlow* called Justice, and said, that he came to apprehend one of those two that were at my house; I asked him if he had a warrant, he said he had: I desired him that he would let me read his warrant: which he did, and I reading it, and finding no name, in the warrant, of him he should apprehend, but for one he called *Quaker*; I replyed, that I could not see how he could apprehend any of those two in my house

by vertue of that Warrant, seeing there was not any name in the Warrant, but the Constable laid hands on *William Dewsbury*, and said, *that he was the man, and that he should go with him before the Justice*, which he did the same day, and *Joseph Stor* was moved to go with him to *Thomas Pentlow's* house in *Wilby*; then I being free in my spirit, did with other friends go along with them to *Thomas Pentlows* house, and there hearing the examination of *William Dewsbury* and *Joseph Stor*, and after that *Thomas Pentlow* had made their *Mittimus*, and gave the Constable charge of them, the said *Thomas Pentlow* came forth of the room into another room whete I and other friends were, and asked me, and one *Richard Smith* *what we did in his house, and who gave us leave to come into his house?* and threatned us *to make us answer our affronting him in his house at the next Sessions.* Then I, and *Richard Smith* told him, that we came not to affront him in his house, neither could he prove it by our carriage since we came into his house; but the occasion of our coming thither at that time was to require of him to do us Justice. He asked for *whom would you have justice against?* We replyed for one *Bridget Makernes* of *Findon*, which was at that instant in his house. He asked us, *what she did to us?* We answered, that about two weeks before, the said *Richard Smith* and my self, and another friend with us, went to *Findon*, and the said *Briget Makernes* (as we were peaceably passing through the street in *Findon*) did abuse us in throwing water at us, and stones, and dirt, and calling us rogues, witches and Divels; yet we gave her no cause, nor spoke not to her, but left her; and for this abuse and affront done to us, we come to thy house, to desire justice of thee against the said *Bridget*. *Thomas Pentlow* answered, *that she had served us right for ought he knew*, and further said, *that he would not do any thing for us against her*; but charged us, *to be forth-coming*, and he *would send a Warrant to the Constable before the Sessions to bring us to answer for the coming into his house.* We replyed and said, that he might do his pleasure, and so departed.

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About three days after, I was moved of the Lord to write these following lines, and sent them privatly sealed up, to the hands of *Thomas Pentlow*.

The Letter.

THus saith the Lord God, Be wise ye Kings, be learned ye that are Judges (*or Justices*) in the earth; serve the Lord in fear, *stand not in your own will when you judg between man and man; but stand in the will of God, and execute true judgment; for you must all give an account to him of your deeds done in the flesh, whether good or evill; and now the Lord begins to roar out of* Sion, *and to utter his voice from* Jerusalem, and wo to all the inhabitants of the earth, saith the Lord God; *and now the time is come that we shall no more say*, the Lord liveth that brought the children of *Israel* out of the Land of *Egypt*; but the Lord liveth that hath brought up, and led the seed of *Israel* out of the North Country, and from all Countrys where I have scattered them, and they shall dwell in their own Land, *Jer.* 23.7,8. *and now the Lord hath made the tidings out of the North to trouble the inhabitants of* Babel, *and it will more trouble them yet: it will make them gnaw their tongues for sorrow, and blaspheme the God of Heaven; for their plagues shall be exceeding great. Now to the light in thy conscience which Christ Jesus hath enlightned thee withal, am I commanded to speak these words, that with it thou mayest examine, and see how thou executest Justice; and how thou didst execute Justice upon those two faithful servants of the living God that thou hast committed to prison; the Law of God in thy Conscience saith, that he that preacheth the Gospel hath a lawful Calling, and is no vagabond though he have no outward habitation, and the Spirit of truth made it manifest in the person of Christ; and he that saith he abideth in Christ, ought so to walk as he himself walked: and he that is commanded of the Lord to preach the Gospel, though he be a Judg Justice, or whoever, must when God Calls him, leave Father and Mother, Wife and Children, and all, and must go*

preach; for whoever he be that sets himself down in a Parish, and there to stay during his life to preach (as he calls it) to a people, I affirm that Person was never sent of God to preach, but is a false Prophet; for there is not one such example in all the Scripture, and Christs Commission is contrary to it; but blessed be the God of Heaven, the Lord hath now raised both Justices, Colonels, Captains, and many hundreds of others in the North, that go hundreds of miles preaching the Gospel, as those thou hast sent to prison did: Now I do tell thee, the light of Christ in thy conscience would not have had thee to have been offended at me, and others that did not put off our hats and bow to thee; but it was thy will, and the will of man is the Beast spoken of in Revelation that ascended out of the bottomless pit. Thou shouldest have put a yoak upon thy beast, for it belongs to him, and not have desired honor, for that belongs to God: thy will is the Beast, the Beast is the Serpent, and dust shall be the Serpents meat; therefore look for no other meat for him of the servants of the living God, and the light of Christ in thy Conscience tells thee, thou shouldst not have been offended at me, and others for speaking to thee in the language of Thee and Thou; but here thy will, thy Beast, thy Serpent having not his yoke on, began to be unruly, and would have had flattering speeches, as yes forsooth, and I pray you Sir, and I thank your worship, Sir; but the language of the Spirit of truth, and of God himself, was that I & others spake to thee which was Thee and Thou, and if thou beest offended, thou maiest, I will ask thee, did'st thou ever put up any petition, or request to the God of Heaven in all thy life time? and did'st thou not desire it in the language of Thee and Thou? speak, and blush for shame, and cover thy lips that thou shouldest be so prond to desire more of thy fellow-creature than thou wilt give to the God of Heaven thy self. Besides, thou art in a begging condition, when thou speaks Thee and Thou to God; but I and others came not a begging to thee when we spoke Thee and Thou to thee; therefore look to the light Christ hath given thee, it will learn thee to put a yoak upon this unruly beast thy will, and to give thy Serpent dust to eat, for childrens bread must

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not be given to dogs. I know I ſpeak a myſtery to thy dark mind, and the whore that ſits upon the ſcarlet coloured Beaſt thy will, which is thy imagination, and carnal wiſdom, ſhall never underſtand me; but to the light of Chriſt in thy conſcience I ſpeak, and that bears me witneſs, I ſpeak truth, and it underſtands me; the light of Chriſt in thy conſcience tells thee, that there was never any perſecution of the truth, but a Prieſt had a hand in it, and he gets the wicked powers of the earth, to carry him to do his miſchief; for as the carnal wiſdom, and imagination cannot do any thing without the will: (which is the Beaſt that carries them) no more could never the wicked Prieſt (which is the whore) do any thing in perſecuting the righteous ſeed but by the help of ſuch Magiſtrates as are evil, and corrupt in all ages, (which is the beaſt to carry them) and theſe in all ages joyned together; But the Beaſt was taken, and with him that falſe Prophet, and caſt into a Lake. *Now I am commanded of the Lord to ſpeak a word to thee concerning thy family; for I ſee unfruitful works of darkneſs acted by them; and therefore I give them a word or two of reproof, I ſee divers of them when I was at thy houſe laughing at the ſervants of the Lord; and* Solomon *ſaith of laughing*, that it is madneſs and folly, *and they gave out in my hearing jeering words, and ſcornful words, and thoſe that ſit in the ſeat of the ſcornful, read what will become of them: and I ſee them given to pleaſures, and he that lives in pleaſure is dead while he lives, and* bodily pleaſure profiteth little, but godlineſs is profitable unto all: *their tongues are all unbridled, and when the tongue is unbridled*, it is an unruly member, and it is ſet on fire of hell. *I charge thee and them to repent, and Fear the living God; for the Lord is now ariſen in* England, *and you muſt be purged; for the haughtineſs of man He will bring down, and lay low: and though you priſon the ſervants of the living God, yet God will bring up others amongſt us that will be faithful in doing his meſſage, in crying out againſt the ſins of high and low, Prieſt and people, in City and Village, Markets, and Steeple-houſes: and they cry, repent and fear the living God, and return to the light of Chriſt in*

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your own Consciences, which convinceth you of sin, and of evil deeds: and for this the wicked world persecutes them, to fulfil the Scriptures; but a body God hath prepared them, and they can suffer more then the wicked world can inflict upon them; and when the wicked have punished what they can, they will forgive them and pitty them and when they are beaten they resist not, when they are cursed they bless; and thus the seed that the Lord hath brought out of the North Country is grown to a thousand, and ten thousand in all parts of England: and the high Cedars begins to fall apace in England, to this mighty power of God; for the Lord is very terrible before the Northern Army, that the scornful world call Quakers; yet not one of these Souldiers hath so much as a stick in their hands; but they have a sword in their mouths, and with it they slay the Nations; therefore you that are called Justices, you may put them in prison, but you cannot take away their Swords; for they can slay as well in prison as without: and one of them through the power of God, dare encounter with a thousand, and overcome them; him whom thou hast cast into prison, with his sword slew two mighty men, and their families in Bedfordshire this last week; and he hath slain me, and hundreds more in these parts: and now thou hast sent him to slay some in Northampton with this sword in his mouth; and I am sure the slain of the Lord will be many thereabouts: and happy had thou been if he had slain thee when he was at the house; for thou must be slain with the sword, or else thou shalt never see thy Saviour; therefore look to the light of Christ in thy Conscience, and with that light bring all thy evil deeds to light, and to the sword of the Lord, and wait in this light for the power of Christ, to cross thy will and imagination, and that power will lead thee up to Christ, and then thou wilt take up thy cross to thy will, and untill thou doest in thou art no Disciple of Christ, profess what thou wilt; for if thou doest profess more than thou doest possess, thou art an hipocrite. Thus in love to thy poor soul, I am moved of the Lord to write this to thee; and if thou hast an ear to hear thou wilt hear it: so I remain a friend to that which is pure of

God

God in thy conscience, called and known to the world by the name of

The Superscription was, Francis Ellington.
This to be delivered to *Thomas Pentlow* called Justice of the Peace, in *Wilby*.

I Beeing free in my spirit to go to the general Sessions holden at *Northampton*, the 10. day of the 11. Month called *Ianuary* 1644. to hear the tryal of the two friends *William Dewsbury*, and *Ioseph Stor*, which were committed by *Thomas Pentlow*; the men called Justices, which sat to have done Justice, hearing I were there, called me into the Court, and read this foresaid Letter, that I were moved to write to *Thomas Pentlow*, as a charge against me; and asked me, if I would find sureties for my good behaviour; but I replyed, and desired them to read me a Law, wherein any thing writ in that letter were a transgression of; but they denyed to read me any, and forthwith commanded the Jaylor to put me in Prison, which was accordingly done. It were Ordered afterwards that I went forth of Prison upon Bail for appearance at the next Sessions; and according to my engagement I did appear upon the 24. day of the second Month called *April* 1655. at the Castle in *Northampton*, where the Sessions were then holden; And at that time there sat upon the Bench, *John Clark* Serjeant at Law, *George Benson*, *Henry Barstet*, *John Brown*, *John Thornton* and *John Mansfield*, who sat there to have done Justice; and when I were called in, not any accuser appeared to my face, nor any Charge was read; but the men that were in Commission required of me, to find sureties for my good behaviour till the next Assises. I desired them to read me a Law which I had transgressed, before they required Bond, and here I am present to answer what the Law required. But they no Law would read me; but commanded the Joaler to put me in prison, where I am in the low Goal amongst those arraigned for fellony and mur-

ther, waiting on the Lord, until he Judg my Cauſe, and eſtabliſh righteouſneſs in the Land. *Francis Ellington.*

To that of God in all Conſciences, I lay this before which is formerly written, to Judg between me & thoſe that proceed againſt me, who hath twice caſt me into priſon, and never read me any Law I had tranſgreſſed; but hath ſeparated me from my Wife and five Children, and my outward calling, and employment I had in the world. Here, by their fruit they are made manifeſt whoſe children they are; for to ſatisfie their wills, they acts contrary to the righteous Law of God, and the Law of the Nation in what they have done; but to the Lord God of Heaven and Earth, who pleads the Cauſe of the innocent, and will ariſe in his mighty power, and deliver his people forth of the hands of all that oppreſs them, on whom I wait, and will me deliver out of the hands of theſe unreaſonable men, that in their dark minds do, they know not what.

Therefore be warned ye Rulers of the earth, and take heed of abuſing the power put into your hands to ſatisfy your wills in oppreſſing the innocent, as the late King and his adherents did, whom the Lord hath caſt out in his wrath, and conſumed in his diſpleaſure; and if you who hath acted in your wills contrary to the Law of God, do not ſpeedily Repent, and turn to the light of Chriſt in your Conſcience, to guide you in obedience to the will of God, to do as you would be done unto; The Lord God of Heaven and Earth will cut you off, as he hath done, and will do the evil doers: and Peace ſhall be upon the *Iſrael* of God. *F. E.*

A true Declaration of the Ground of the impriſonment of Edward Ferman, in the County of *Northampton.*

I Being moved of the Lord the 15. day of the ſecond Month called *April* to go to *Farndon* Steeple-houſe; and *Samuel Glover*, who the people calls their Teacher, being there ſpeaking to the people, I went to the place, and there ſtood peaceably, and the Prieſt ſeeing of me called

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to the Officers three ſeveral times, to take me out of the houſe, which they did: and forced me forth out of the door; and there I ſtood until the Prieſt had done, and was come down out of his high place, and the people were ſome of them departed; then I was moved to go in again, and ſpoke ſome word unto the people: and the Prieſt ſeeing me went up again into his High place, and named a text of Scripture, and called to the people to keep their places, but they would not; and then he came down, and commanded the Conſtable ro keep me in his cuſtody, which he did; and the next day *Samuel Glover* procured a Warrant from *John Manſel* of *Thorp*, wherein it were expreſſed, that I were a wanderer, and an idle perſon; yet I lived within four miles of that place, wrought hard for my living with one *Thomas Cocket* of *Dingley* in *Northamptonſhire*, Shoomaker. The Conſtable the next day had me before *John Manſel*, and *John Brown*, who then was at *Thorp* aforeſaid; and when I came before them, they told me I were there acculed for diſturbing Mr. *Glover*; Anſwer to them was made, that before I ſpake *Samuel Glover* had done, and came down, and he was the diſturber in going up again, and named a text: which it was declared to him before the men that there ſat to have don Juſtice, that what he did it was for a ſnare, and he anſwered that he would do ſo to all that came thither; then *John Manſel*, and *John Brown* a *Mittimus* made, and ſent me to the Common Goale in *Northampton*, where they ſay I muſt lye for three months, where by the power of the Lord I in patience wait, until the Lord plead my Cauſe in his righteouſneſs. *Edward Ferman.*

A true Declaration of the Cauſe of the impriſonment of Thomas Cocket *in the County of* Northampton, *that no lye might reſt upon the truth: for the ſimple ſake I am moved to give it forth.*

I Meeting with a friend that walked honeſtly, and ſoberly in the truth; about two weeks after, I hearing this friend were in bonds, I went to viſit him at one *William Steel's* in *Kettering*, and deſired to ſpeak with him;

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Answer were made, that he had an order from Justice *Brown* that none might speak with him; I went away, and afterwards could find no rest in my spirit, until I writ the following lines, which was sent to *John Brown*.

The Letter is as followeth.

JOhn Brown, *I went to* William Steel's *house, where there were a friend prisoner, and desired to speak with him; he told me he had order from thee, that none might speak with him. Is this to do as thou wouldst be done unto? thou hast a light of Christ in thy Conscience, which bears witness with the Law of God, and tells the thou shouldst do as thou wouldst be done unto: In persecuting one of Christs little ones thou hast done it unto Him; and wo is thy portion. A lover of that which is pure of God in thy Conscience*, Thomas Cocket.

This is the substance of what was writ, which was about the 4. day of the first month called *March*.

AND on the 16. day of the second Month called *April*, I heard that *Edward Ferman* my servant, were apprehended with a Warrant for a wanderer, and idle person, and carried before *John Mansel*, and *John Brown*, who is in Commission to do Justice: I went to *John Mansels* house to justifie that he was no wanderer nor idle person; but with me wrought painfully with his hands. *John Mansel* seeing me there, required Bonds for my behaviour, for writing the aforesaid lines to *John Brown*: and *John Brown* being there, I desired of them to shew that Letter I writ, and a Law which that Letter had transgressed: but they refused both, and told me if I would not find men to be bound, I should go to prison: so no Law they would me read, but a *Mittimus* made, and sent me to the Common Goale in *Northampton*, and a copy of the *Mittimus* I am denyed by *John Snart* Keeper of the Goale. And at the General Sessions holden at *Northampton* the 24. of the 2. month called *April*, I was brought before *John Mansfil*, *Henry Bartlet*, and *John Thornton*, who was in Commission to do Justice, and the *Mittimus* was read as a charge against me, & the substance in it was, for writing the foresaid lines to *John Brown*, I desired them to read me the Letter, and a Law that any thing writ in the Letter was the transgression of; but they denyed to read any Law, and they required bond for my behaviour, before they proved me a transgressor of the Law: so sent me back to prison, where I had been, and am in the dungeon amongst those arraigned for felony and murther, so am separated from my wife, children, and family; yet through the power of God, I am kept in measure, to stand as a witness against the unrighteous practices of men, and am made to wait patiently, until the Lord Judge the Cause of the innocent.

FINIS *Thomas Cocket.*